

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 11, 2016

Agenda Item: 2016-2017 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2015) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

FWP proposes two minor changes for the 2016 and 2017 mountain lion season, both in the Gallatin Valley, Hunting District 309: 1) allow fall season without dogs to extend from Sept. 5 through Nov. 30, and 2) allow Resident Hound Training Licenses in the hunting district. All other aspects of the 2015 season structure are to remain in place. These changes are referenced in the Mountain Lion Master List for the December meeting.

FWP proposes no changes to the proposals adopted at the December meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Mountain lion season comments were received during scoping and included interest in liberalized harvest, expanded hunting opportunities, and confusion in the regulations. Public comment ran from Dec. 10 to Jan 22. We received 36 comments. Most spoke to wanting an increased lion harvest. All comments are in the Commission packet.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2015 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationale for individual proposals was included in the Dec. 10th Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Feb. 11th Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the final 2016 and 2017 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP. I also move to adopt all other portions of the previous 2014-2015 mountain lion season regulations not affected by the Commission's actions today.